

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

**CONTACT:** Sarah Elliott 444-9725

**Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program Goes Online**  
*Visit [www.mgslp.org](http://www.mgslp.org) to Apply Online*

(HELENA) Governor Brian Schweitzer today announced that Montanans interested in the Governor's Postsecondary scholarship can now apply online. The Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship program was created by HB 435 which passed in the 2005 legislative session. The bill, carried by Representative Gary Branae, provides about 500 scholarships per year to Montana students.

"Montana's families have been priced out of an education. Our state's most talented should have the opportunity to attend college and become the engines that drive our future economic growth."

The Governor's scholarships will go to students who graduate from accredited Montana high schools. These scholarships are need-based and targeted: merit-based awards for academic achievement and 2 year programs for workforce development. All public institutions of higher education in Montana will offer scholarships.

"We must invest in education, if Montana is to succeed in attracting new businesses and in promoting a healthier climate for economic growth" said Governor Schweitzer.

To read more about the program or apply online visit -- [www.mgslp.org](http://www.mgslp.org).

The following tables represent the number of student awards created by the program.  
Needs Based Scholarships for 2-Year Programs

Scholarship Type	Number Awarded	Annual Award
General Studies Degrees/Certificates	90	\$1,000
Health Sciences Degrees/Certificates	50	\$1,000
Other Technical Degrees/Certificates	110	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	

Merit Based Scholarships for 2 and 4 Year Programs

Scholarship Type	Number Awarded	Annual Award
Each Montana Accredited High School (1 per school)	180	\$1,000
At Large Merit Based (4 year)	20	\$2,000
At Large Merit Based (2 year)	35	\$1,000

<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	
--------------	------------	--

The bill established a Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Advisory Council to work with the Board of Regents of Higher Education and the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program in awarding and administering the scholarship program. The board may also accept donations from public or private sources.

The Montana Constitution (Section 6) explicitly prohibits sectarian schools from receiving both direct and indirect aid from public monies - therefore students attending sectarian schools would not be eligible for the scholarships.

The Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program passed the Senate 42-8 and the House 54-46.

###